



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

91241d
Food and Drug Administration
Cincinnati District Office
Central Region
6751 Steger Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45237-3097
Telephone: (513) 679-2700

**CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

WARNING LETTER CIN-WL-01-7487

May 14, 2001

Robert E. Rahrig
General Manager
Countryline Co-Op, Inc.
425 East Front Street
Pemberville, OH 43450

Dear Mr. Rahrig:

An inspection of your feed mill was conducted by a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigator on April 11-12, 2001. This inspection found significant deviations from the requirements set forth in Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 589.2000 – Animal Proteins Prohibited in Ruminant Feed. This regulation is intended to prevent the establishment and amplification of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Such deviations cause products being manufactured and distributed by your facility to be adulterated within the meaning of Section 402(a)(4) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act).

Our inspection found your procedures to prevent cross contamination are inadequate in that your procedures do not ensure equipment is cleaned out or flushed after mixing feeds containing prohibited material. You should establish adequate procedures and verify that the flush/clean-out method you use cleans out the remainder of preceding batches containing prohibited materials. Note: If you flush with feed ingredients, or sequence with non-ruminant feed, you must label these products with the required cautionary statement "Do not feed to Cattle or Other Ruminants"

The inspection also found your invoices for feeds which contain, or may contain, prohibited materials are labeled "Do not feed to Ruminants". The correct cautionary statement is "**Do not feed to Cattle or Other Ruminants**". We suggest this statement be distinguished by different type size or color or other means of highlighting the statement so it is easily noticed by the purchaser.


This letter is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of deficiencies at your facility. As a manufacturer of materials intended for animal feed use, you are responsible for assuring that your overall operation and the products you manufacture and distribute are in compliance with the law. We have enclosed a copy of the FDA's Small Entity Compliance Guide to assist you with complying with the regulation.

You should take prompt action to correct these violations, and you should establish a system whereby such violations do not recur. Failure to promptly correct these violations may result in regulatory action without further notice, such as seizure and/or injunction.

You should notify this office in writing within 15 working days of receipt of this letter, of the steps you have taken to bring your firm into compliance with the law. Your response should include an explanation of each step being taken to correct the violations, and prevent their recurrence. If corrective action cannot be completed in 15 days, state the reason for the delay and the date by which the corrections will be completed. Include copies of any available documentation demonstrating that corrections have been made. Note: The need for clean-out procedures and the required cautionary statement was previously discussed with you on November 9, 1998 by Terry Lammers, an investigator with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA). At that time you verbally told the ODA representative that these deficiencies would be corrected. Please explain why corrections were not made following the ODA inspection.

Your reply should be directed to Deborah Grelle, Director of Compliance, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 6751 Steger Drive, Cincinnati, Oh 45237, telephone (513) 679-2700 extension 160.

Sincerely yours,


Henry L. Fielden
District Director

Enclosure: Small Entity Compliance Guide

Cc: David Schleich, Chief Plant Industry Division
Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-3399